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# Mondale counsel recants Radio Hanoi broadcasts

By Bill Kling  
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The chief legal counsel of Walter F. Mondale's Democratic presidential campaign recanted last night on views he held in 1970, when he visited North Vietnam and made two Radio Hanoi propaganda broadcasts urging American troops in South Vietnam to join "anti-war" forces protesting U.S. activities in Southeast Asia.

David M. Ifshin, also newly "of counsel" in the Washington office of the Los Angeles law firm of Democratic National Chairman Charles T. Manatt, called "a serious mistake" the broadcasts of more than 13 years ago, at the height of the Indochina War, when he accused U.S. military leaders and President Richard M. Nixon of ordering Americans GIs "to murder Vietnamese."

"I did it, and I regret it," Mr. Ifshin told The Washington Times in an interview last night. "I apologize for it. I'm sorry."

Mr. Ifshin, who is paid \$3,000 a month in his Mondale-Ferraro campaign post, said in a propaganda broadcast aired Jan. 2, 1971 and monitored by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS): "I urge you to strengthen the anti-war movement among GIs [and] to demand that the U.S. withdraw from Vietnam."

According to an FBIS transcript, Mr. Ifshin invoked a Communist rallying cry — "All power to the

people" — to close that broadcast.

"What's being fought for in South Vietnam is the maintenance of the U.S. military presence in the south," Mr. Ifshin said in another FBIS-monitored propaganda broadcast aired two days earlier — on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, 1970.

"What [U.S. government and military officials] need to have in power is a government that is pro-U.S. interests; and that government we maintain in power regardless of the price that the Vietnamese have to pay and regardless of the price that you have to pay, and that I have to pay."

Beamed to the south, the propaganda broadcasts were intended to demoralize U.S. troops fighting against a South Vietnam takeover

by communist Viet Cong guerrilla forces and military units of the late Ho Chi Minh's North Vietnamese regime.

Last night, Mr. Ifshin said that his 1970 Hanoi visit was "a mistake . . . [and] the actions of a naive kid who reacted to a situation beyond his political maturity."

"I made a serious mistake, and I learned from it," he said. "I've since learned that the world is a lot more dangerous place than when seen from the eyes of a 20-year-old kid. In 1976, I worked for 'Scoop' Jackson [the late Sen. Henry Jackson, D-Wash.] for president. After the 'boat people,' I grew up."

The 'boat people' are Vietnamese refugees who have fled communist rule in Indochina, taking to the open sea in small craft. Many have died in their attempts to escape.

Mr. Ifshin, a former president of the Syracuse University student body, was president of the radical National Student Association of the United States when he led what Radio Hanoi described as "an antiwar, American students delegation" to North Vietnam and made the radio broadcasts.

A Radio Hanoi announcer introduced Mr. Ifshin as "talking about the true nature of the war."

Invited to North Vietnam by the Hanoi government, Mr. Ifshin, then 21, reportedly participated in "negotiating" the so-called "People's Peace Treaty," which the Communists then used in a propaganda effort to discredit and undermine U.S. activities in Indochina.

Mr. Ifshin was elected NSA president on Aug. 19, 1970 at the organization's 23rd annual convention at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn. Four days earlier, convention delegates had voted 150-to-134 to reject a resolution he proposed for massive demonstrations here to "close the city down" if all American troops were not pulled out of Vietnam by the following May.

During the Democratic presidential primaries earlier this year, Mr. Ifshin, now 35, authored a controversial memorandum distributed to Mondale supporters indicating how they might circumvent federal limitations on contributions from multiple sources to finance campaigns for the election of Mondale delegates to the Democratic National Convention.

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